

News



**Triage...**

Medics receive wounded from “surprise attack” training. See story on Page 7A.



**Free at last...**

Iraqi freed after being held as a political prisoner in Iraq. Page 15A.



**Students at Winn...**

Winn Hospital provided a real world setting for students interested in the medical arts. Page 5B.

Post Update

**Phone scam...**

people are being contacted by telephone from individuals saying they represent the “Government Grant Organization” in Overland Park, N.Y.

The representative will claim to have \$5,000 and they need your address and bank information to deposit the money. This is a scam.

If you suspect that you are the intended victim of a scam, notify the military police and the proper civilian authorities.

**Cell phones...**

Beginning Apr. 14 all cell phone numbers will be released for use by telemarketers.

You can place your cell phone on the Federal Trade Commission’s “National Do Not Call Registry” list. The process takes about 30 seconds. Call 1-888-382-1222 from your cell phone to register.

**Daylight Savings Time...**

Daylight Savings Time begins Apr. 3 at 2 a.m.

Plan ahead and prepare your work schedules accordingly.

Employees working a night shift are NOT allowed 1 hour of administrative leave. Check with your supervisor for more information.

Guide

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**Iraqi Easter...**

3rd Infantry Division Soldiers celebrated Easter with a sunrise service, special Easter meal, and a concert. The story in pictures on Page 1B.

3ID Soldier honored with Medal of Honor

Presentation to be made by President Bush at the White House Apr. 4. The nation honors Sgt. First Class Paul R. Smith with the first Medal of Honor since Samolia. 3ID Soldier killed in action April 4, 2003 in Baghdad during OIF I.

This describes the situation certain units of the 3ID found themselves in that day:

On April 4, 2003, the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, attacked to seize Objective Lions, the Baghdad International Airport. As part of the Brigade scheme of maneuver, Task Force 2-7 Infantry was tasked to establish a blocking position against a brigade-sized counterattack on the main entrance to the airfield. Task Force 2-7 had been fighting for three consecutive days and had moved through the night before reaching the blocking position. Morale was high, but Soldiers were experiencing fatigue. B Company, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment (Knight) was in the east-most position oriented along the main avenue of approach ready for the main enemy counterattack. A Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment (Rage) was attacking to the southeast of the Highway.

The main entrance to the airfield was a four-lane highway with a median to separate incoming and outgoing traffic. Large masonry walls with towers approximately 100 meters apart bound the highway. On the morning of April 4, 2003, more than 100 soldiers from the Task Force 2-7 Forward Aid Station, mortars, scouts and portions of B Company, 11th Engineer Battalion were in the median behind the forward most blocking positions. The B Company, 11th Engineer Battalion 2nd Platoon Leader was on a reconnaissance mission with the B Company, Task Force 2-7 Infantry Commander. During his absence, 2nd Platoon received the mission to construct an Enemy Prisoner of War holding area. Sgt. 1st Class Smith was in charge of 2nd Platoon.

Sgt. 1st Class Smith assessed the best location to be behind the masonry wall bounding the highway. Two guard towers along the wall were ideally situated to provide overwatch to the holding

area. An M9 armored combat earthmover (ACE) knocked a hole in the wall to create an opening to a large courtyard with a louvered metal gate on the north side. With the help of a squad leader and team leader, Sgt. 1st Class Smith checked the far side of the courtyard for enemy, found none, and posted two guards. From the guard post at the gate small groupings of buildings were 100-200 meters to the northeast. To the northwest, a large white building with a white dome was visible. The location seemed perfect as the courtyard was along the northern flank of the blocking position and enemy actions to this point were mostly from the east.

While an engineer squad began to clear debris in the courtyard, one of the guards saw 10-15 enemy soldiers with small arms, 60mm mortars, and rocket-propelled grenades (RPG). These were the lead elements of an organized company-sized force making a deliberate attack on the flank of Task Force 2-7. Sgt. 1st Class Smith came to the position and identified 25-50 more soldiers moving into prepared fighting positions. Sgt. 1st Class Smith instructed a squad leader to get a nearby Bradley Fighting Vehicle for support. While waiting for the Bradley, Sgt. 1st Class Smith had members of 2nd platoon retrieve AT-4 weapons and form a skirmish line outside the gate. By this time, the number of enemy identified rose to 100 soldiers, now a confirmed company-sized attack. Three of B Company’s M113A3 armored personnel carriers (APC) oriented .50-cal. machine-guns toward the opening in the wall and the surrounding guard towers, now occupied by enemy soldiers.

Sgt. 1st Class Smith’s actions to organize a defense against the deliberate attack were not only effective, but inspired the B Company, 11th Engineer Battalion Soldiers. He then began to lead by example. As the Bradley arrived on site and moved through the hole in the wall toward the gate, Sgt. 1st Class Smith ran to the gate wall and threw a fragmentation grenade at

**See Smith ————— Page 16A**



Sgt. First Class Paul R. Smith

**Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith, B Company, 11th Engineers, 3d Infantry Division, U.S. Army, was born on September 24, 1969 in El Paso, Texas.**

Upon graduating in 1988 from Tampa Bay Vocational Technical High School he enlisted in the Army at Tampa, Florida. He attended basic and advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and was assigned to the 82nd Engineer Battalion, Bamberg, Germany.

Later assignments were with 1st Engineer Battalion, Fort Riley, Kansas; 317th Engineer Battalion, Fort Benning, Georgia; 9th Engineer Battalion, Schweinfurt, Germany and the 11th Engineer Battalion, Fort Stewart, Georgia.

He deployed on Operation



Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

**The rifle and kevlar of Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith are displayed during his memorial service held by his unit in April 2003.**

Desert Storm, the Persian Gulf War, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For more information on SFC Smith visit Web site at **www.army.mil.**

3rd ID continues Iraqi mission

Task Force Baghdad takes complex mission in stride, controls area of responsibility

Donna Miles  
*American Forces Press Service*

**BAGHDAD, Iraq,** — During the opening days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Army’s 3rd Infantry Division was racing north toward Baghdad, the tip of the spear in the coalition’s ground campaign to remove Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein from power.

Exactly two years later, the Army’s storied “Rock of the Marne” division is back in Baghdad, but this time, carrying out a significantly different mission in a significantly different environment.

“We’re still out there, doing patrols and beating the insurgents,” said Capt. John “J.R.” Rolland, 2nd Brigade, 9th Field Artillery Regiment. But now the division has a dual — and in many respects, more complex — mission, explained Rolland, a veteran of the division’s first Iraq deployment. It’s helping the Iraqi people build their country, including the vital mission of helping train Iraq’s security forces, specifically, the 41st Brigade “Defenders of Baghdad.”

For soldiers who battled Saddam’s Republican Guard and other Iraqi battalions as they thundered north through southern Iraq and into Baghdad two years ago, working so closely with Iraq’s new military represents a dramatic role change.



Donna Mills  
**Capt. John “J.R.” Rolland, 2nd Brigade’s A Battery, 9th Field Artillery Regiment, said the 3rd Infantry Division has a more complex mission during its second deployment to Iraq.**

“We went from fighting these guys to helping them fight for their country,” Rolland said.

Capt. Gary Ducote, also a veteran of the division’s first deployment to Iraq, faces a similar contrast in his new role as the division’s 2nd Brigade project officer, tracking myriad civil affairs projects under way throughout the brigade’s operating area in eastern Baghdad.

“In combat, we were focused on freeing the Iraqi people from dictatorship and tyranny,” he said. “Now, we’re trying to help them rebuild the economy and get the government back on its feet.”

But just as the coalition mission has changed, so has the environment in which the soldiers operate.

Living conditions have improved dramatically. During their last deployment, 3rd Infantry Division troops frequently slept outside or in abandoned buildings, showered under drinking water bottles and ate more than their share of combat rations.

Now, at Forward Operating Base Liberty in eastern Baghdad, 2nd Brigade troops enjoy rooms with beds, a well-equipped gym, a phone center, free laundry service and a well-stocked chow hall with meals prepared by a military contractor. “The quality of life is great,” said Rolland. “It makes it so much easier to do this.”

Outside the gates, much has changed as well.

**See 3ID and Related Story ————— Page 17A**



**Capt. Andrew Meehan, 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, briefs prospective Iraqi Policemen during a physical training test held at the Baghdad Convention Center.**

Scores show up to become policemen

Story and Photos by  
**Pfc. Dan Balda**  
*Task Force Baghdad*

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — More than 100 potential Iraqi Police recruits showed up at the Baghdad Convention Center recently to take the tests necessary to move on to the police academy in Jordan.

“These recruits come from all over the area — Sadr City, Basarah, Babel,” Capt. Andrew Meehan, 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion said. “These guys will be in charge of patrolling various neighborhoods in and around Baghdad.”

Last month 250 recruits were screened and 105 were chosen to go to the academy.

“We set very high standards for the recruitment,” Meehan said. “We have no problem failing people if they don’t meet any of the requirements. We expect a lot from these guys.”

Meehan thought the attitude of the Soldiers in the area had something to do with the number of applicants.

“I think the Soldiers do a great job of talking to the people around the city, they motivate the people to sign up for this,” he said. “It’s kind of a sales job actually. As long as you treat the people with the same respect you believe you should be shown they will be more welcoming.”

The potential recruits had to pass a physical training test, consisting of push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups, a 100 meter sprint and a 1,600 meter run. Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, helped with the physical training test.

“They told me that they had a detail for me, and I told them

**See Police ————— Page 16A**



VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

# Understanding the concept of “endangered species” program

Special to The Frontline

Endangered species is a term often heard nowadays on the evening news and in daily conversation. To some, it is a reminder of man's failure to adequately protect and conserve our natural resources. Other see the endangered species label as an example of government intrusion into the private lives of citizens. Let's take the opportunity this week to discuss some facts about endangered species, the laws that protect them and what they mean to all of us. Let's begin with a brief look back in history to help us understand how there came to be such a thing as an endangered species.

Man's ability to modify his environment makes him unique among the creatures of the earth. From the beginning, we have used this ability to create more desirable conditions for ourselves. Prehistoric people often set fires to clear forests for agriculture and grazing. More recently,

North American settlers cleared forests with the ax, and tilled the soil with steel plows drawn by horses. Modern engineers have bulldozers, excavators and explosives at their disposal. These tools enable us to shape the land to suit our needs, but, in the process, we sometimes make it unsuitable for certain wildlife species. Not surprisingly, most of the species currently on the endangered list are in trouble due to a loss of habitat.

By the 1960's, there was a

growing concern over the noticeable decline in the numbers of some species such as bald eagles, panthers, alligators, etc., and the complete extinction of others such as the Labrador duck, passenger pigeon and ivory billed woodpecker.

Congress passed laws in 1966 and 1969 to encourage protection of species considered to be in danger of extinction but the laws contained few mandatory provisions. Them, in 1973, Congress passed The Endangered Species Act. In signing the bill, President Richard Nixon praised Congress for this "important step," declaring, "that it provided the federal government with needed authority to protect an irreplaceable part of our national heritage."

The law directed federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, to insure their actions did not jeopardize any endangered species. Federal agencies are also required to carry out programs for the conservation of endangered species. The law's definition of conservation makes clear that management programs for endangered

species and their habitat are designed to not only stop the species' decline, but to bring them back so that they are no longer endangered.

Although managing endangered species might seem like a strange mission for a Soldier, demonstrating leadership is nothing new. It is important to know that when you are called on to be extra careful around a red-cockaded woodpecker colony, it doesn't mean that the Army or any of its Soldiers have been judged to be the culprits who cause the decline of this little bird. It means that we have been reorganized as the leaders who can get the job done. And, as is always the case, with leadership comes responsibility.

There are over 280,000 acres on Fort Stewart and Hunter Arm Airfield and they are home to eight species that are protected by the Endangered Species Act. Among them are the red-cockaded woodpecker, bald eagle, wood stork, indigo snake and the short nosed sturgeon. Well planned, scientifically based conservation programs are the best way to promote the

recovery of endangered species and such program have already succeeded for some species.

The bald eagle, our nation's symbol, is an endangered species success story. There were no bald eagles nesting in Georgia in 1980 when state and federal officials began a conservation program that included the release of young eaglets bred in captivity; protection of habitat and intensive monitoring of eagle nests.

In 1981, the first successful bald eagle nest was observed and the numbers grew slowly, but steadily, over the next several years. In 1993, there were more than 20 known bald eagle nests in Georgia with nesting activity confirmed at 15 of them. One was a brand new nest at Pineview Lake, the first eagle nest on Fort Stewart in 30 years.

Endangered species conservation efforts here at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield include activities such as setting fire to the woods, under proper conditions, in order to reduce underbrush, and placing color-coded leg bands on RCWs to help monitor their nesting successes. Trees surrounding the immediate vicinity of their nests are also marked to indicate their presence.

The training areas that we call Fort Stewart and Hunter AAF are a wonderful resource. The installation's rich diversity of plants and animals are an indication of what we the Army, you the Soldier and the civilians on post, have done right.

## Marne Voices

The **Frontline**  
Readers respond to the question:

“Have rising gas prices affected you and how?”

“Not at all ... we're gonna pay what it takes to buy it.”

John Bush  
Father of Soldier



"Well yea - it's definitely more painful filling up."

Greg Collier  
National Guard Bureau



"My wife has a little Nissan Sentra, and I try to drive that instead of [my SUV], and I make less trips."

Wayne Cook  
Retiree



"Yes, I'm driving less, not traveling and just staying at home."

Diann Hicks  
Winn Army  
Community Hospital

"Yes, I think they abuse the system everytime summer comes around. And this is one way way they take advantage."

Diane Sandoval  
Wife of retiree



"It's affected me because I don't drive my truck anymore. Prices are ridiculous."

Staff Sgt. Gregory Watkins  
NCO Academy

# Why I serve — for family and friends

Spc. Eddie Aguila  
3rd ID 1st BCT

The ground operation here two years ago was a tough one for Army Spc. Eddie Aguilar.

As he and his fellow members of 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Brigade, 64th Armor, were pushing north and into Baghdad, his wife was at home giving birth to their son, born April 1.

Aguilar, who said he had to push thoughts about his son out of his mind so he could focus on his mission, got official word of the birth two weeks later.

But even more emotionally difficult, he said, was the loss of his close friend and mentor, Staff Sgt. Stephan Booker. Booker died during an attack by Republican Guard troops as the unit was clearing the road leading to what was then called Saddam Hussein International Airport on April 5, 2003.

"Booker's death," Aguilar said, "left everyone stunned." Aguilar, still devastated by the loss, said he thinks of Booker often, and the example he set for his soldiers.

"He was the first person I met when I got to the unit," Aguilar said. "He taught me all



Courtesy photo  
the ins and outs."

Today, Aguilar is deployed once again to Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division, this time working in the 2nd Brigade's

Headquarters and Headquarters Company. The division's mission here is markedly different from two years ago. Rather than combat operations, it's

focused on fighting the insurgency and helping the Iraqi people build their country.

As he carries out the mission, Aguilar said he's found gratification in seeing the Iraqis build their country and feels good about being part of the progress.

But he said he has a more personal motivator, to ensure that his friend Booker did not die for nothing. So he's taking the lessons he learned from his NCO and sharing them with other, more junior Soldiers.

Booker taught him a lot, Aguilar said. "He taught me that you always look out for your battle buddy, and that if I ever needed help, he'd be there for me," Aguilar said. "He also taught me that your fellow Soldiers are your family here, people you can turn to and count on."

"I'm taking what Sergeant Booker taught me and passing it on," he said.

Aguilar said he has another motivation during his deployment: to make sure the son born when he was here two years ago here never has to serve in Iraq. "If I had to do this one more time to prevent my son from having to, I would," he said.

## Legal Notices

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Pfc. Lee Arthur Lewis**, 3-15 IN BN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 2nd Lt. Saputo, D Battery, 2-3 BTB RD, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-7484 or 370-7520. (2)

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# Fire in the sky



## Charlie Battery takes aim and brings big guns out for exercise, woods reverberate to rockets' sound.

From about 10 kilometers away, artillerymen from Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 39th Field Artillery Regiment land 'telephone poles' with pin-point accuracy to further qualify the unit. By Wednesday afternoon, the unit was 'table 12' qualified.

**Sgt. James Strine**  
*Frontline Staff*

Local artillerymen from Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 39th Field Artillery Regiment brought out the big guns all last week to prove themselves beginning with table-10 qualifications all the way up to table-12.

The tables, as outlined in Army training doctrine, included everything from individual tactics, techniques and procedures to section qualifications all the way up to platoon-level skills. The Soldiers began work on tables 1 through 9 as early as January of this year.

The artillery professionals passed them all.

The culmination of the train-

ing came Wednesday afternoon when the Soldiers fired reduced-power training rockets from their Multiple Launch Rocket Systems across Hwy. 119 into the main impact area on Fort Stewart. Motorist needed not worry; the section of Hwy. 119 that extends between the outer gate near Pembroke into Gate Three was closed for most of the day while the live fire went on.

Even still, the Soldiers hit their marks with "telephone poles," otherwise known as reduced impact practice rockets. Instead of armed detonations on the rockets, that in wartime boast the ability to decimate an entire grid square (1 square kilometer), there was absolutely no impact with the

round; it only stuck in the ground wherever it touched down. The only sound that could be heard was the thunderous roar of the rockets' ascent and path to its target. Needless to say, earplugs were mandatory.

Aside from the spectacle of it all, this event was about the training. Most of the firers (E5s), drivers (E4s), and team chiefs (E6s) were junior in their positions and needed the training to remain battle ready in the most relevant of times.

"You don't want their first rocket to be in the desert sands of Iraq," said Fires Brigade Rear Detachment Commander Lt. Col. E.J. Degen.

It doesn't just take gunners, chiefs and drivers to employ

rocket firepower, however, there are also droves of maintenance Soldiers, communication Soldiers and other Artillery professionals who assist in the coordination of complicated target acquisition, weather factors and technical ins-and-outs of systems whose names consist of every alpha-numeric acronym too complex to even write. Each of the soldiers' skills are put to the test during these qualifications.

Because the division is deployed, qualifying the artillerymen's skills past table-12 (platoon-level qualification including multiple rockets on a target) the next step of qualifying as a battery was because of the many resources tapped to support that many MLRSs fir-

ing at once. But nonetheless, this was an important step in reaching that goal, Degen said.

"If the section is weak," Degen said, "you'll never have a strong platoon; you'll never have a strong battery or a strong battalion."

This training opportunity only comes roughly twice a year for artillery personnel.

Because the training munitions are expensive and a lot of protocol comes with turning in rounds and handling misfires.

Artillery Soldiers find themselves making up for field time in the garrison by training on simulators, performing command maintenance every week and taking sergeants time to practice loading and reloading procedures to name a few.

"We work out all the bugs in the motorpool and here at training so in wartime, all the bugs are worked out," Degen said.

1-39th FA leaders hope when the division returns, they'll be able to continue past table-12 and get an entire battery qualified and then some.

For now, the battalion is split and spread out: certain elements have been tasked with Individual Readiness Training for incoming 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers who may soon find themselves in Iraq, and another element handles the medical holdovers on Fort Stewart.

Even still other Soldiers from 1-39th Fire Artillery are deployed, about a 'battery plus.'





**Capt. Shane Garrison, information operations officer, 4/64 Armor, Camp Prosperity, gives an Iraqi woman a package of diapers during the medical outreach program.**

## 4th BCT Soldiers provide medical aid

Story and photos by  
**Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper**  
*Task Force Baghdad*

**CAMP PROSPERITY, Iraq** — As the convoy pulled into the Janain neighborhood, people started to come out of there houses. The speakers on top of the psychological operation’s Humvee announced the Soldiers arrival. The message was simple – the Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment were here to provide medical assistance to the residents.

The medics setup a makeshift aid station to treat the residents as an area was cordoned off with concertina wire Mar. 9.

“In order to develop a relationship with the people, we decided to come out today to treat as many minor ailments as possible,” Capt. Daniel Green, battalion surgeon, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor said. “Today the idea is volume instead of severity.”

People lined up at the make-shift entrance between two strands of concertina wire where they were searched before medics took over. They did an initial screening of the residents, checking blood pressure and temperature, and through the help of an interpreter, discussed the patients medical problem.

Green said the focus was on minor injuries and illnesses because currently he’s not equipped to provide more advance care.

The injuries ran from minor aches and pains to broken limbs and a variety of colds and minor illnesses. Some had injuries that the medics could not treat, such as the son of the area mayor, who was blind due to an injury during the Iran/Iraq war.

Although the Soldiers couldn’t heal all of the resident’s ills, they were eager to be seen.

“A lot of the children need medication for asthma or allergies, or they have gotten into

something and have a rash,” Green said. “For women with infants, they don’t have adequate supplies of formula so we try to give that out.”

Staff Sgt. Jenny Vega, medic, 703rd Forward Support Battalion, was one of the Soldiers that helped hand out diapers, formula and dental kits for the children.

She said, the dental kits will help the children keep their teeth healthy and formula will help the babies develop properly. “I love helping out. I love to see the kids and their mothers smiling.”

The focus was on providing medical help to the residents, but the benefits go further than just the immediate help.

Capt. Shane Garrison, information operations officer, 4/64 Armor explained that if all the commander did was come here to get bad guys, the residents would never see any of the good that Soldiers are doing.

Green said, “Ultimately I feel that any



**During a medical outreach program, Capt. Daniel Green, battalion surgeon, 4/64 Armor, numbs the finger of a small boy after he injured his finger.**

time you reach out to help somebody you develop a relationship.

However, we have already had a very positive outcome from doing things like this. It is small things like this that make them comfortable with our presence.”

He recounted how in one area

after the Army treated one woman’s son for asthma, she led them to a hidden weapons cache. “That wasn’t the ultimate goal. The ultimate goal was to take care of her children, but it fosters a relationship where people help us with our overall mission.”

## Spartan Soldiers continue infrastructure improvements

Story and photos by  
**Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich**  
*Task Force Baghdad*

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — The 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Brigade Troops Battalion, is comprised of Soldiers from the signal, military intelligence, military police and engineer communities.

Their mission is a non-lethal one – to support to the 2nd Brigaded Combat Team by providing communications, intelligence, police and engineer assets.

The latter, engineer support, is critical in the coalition’s continuing effort to rebuild and improve Iraq’s infrastructure, according to Lt. Col. Jamie Gayton, commander, 2/3 BTB.

Gayton, a career engineer officer, along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, serve as project assessment, construction management and quality control. He sees the multitude of engineer projects in the brigade’s sector, specifically Sadr City, as an opportunity to garner support from the local populace.

“(Iraqis) are looking for someone to grab onto to make things better,” he said. “More importantly, they need to know that we’ll follow through with the projects.”

In Sadr City, more than \$380 million has been put into improving the quality of life for two million Iraqis. Over 100 sewer, trash, power and water projects in the area either under way or have been completed, Gayton said.

“(Sadr City and) Baghdad east of the Tigris was ignored by Saddam’s regime.”

One of the major problems in Sadr, as well as the rest of the sector, is an inadequate sewage system or complete lack of one.

“What has been our major obstacle to this point is discovering which areas do or don’t have a functioning sewer system,” said 1st Lt. Joshua Conary, brigade wastewater officer, 2/3 BTB. “Poor record keeping in the past ... and years of construction and paving over existing manholes has made (discovering sewer lines) especially difficult.”

Sadr City has one main sewer line, with multiple lateral lines from each neighborhood that feed into it. The gravity line, which rests 10 – 15 meters below the surface, is three meters in diameter and runs from the geographic center of Sadr 15 miles south to the Rustimiya North Sewer Treatment Plant, one of only two plants east of the Tigris.

The problem, according to Gayton, is a lack of sewage lines that run from homes to the main sewer line. “For the most part,” he said, “(residents’) sewage runs from their home into street trenches.”

Ten miles southeast of Sadr City, in Mahalla, a street and sewer project was recently completed to the delight of residents. One of the locals stated (through an interpreter) he had lived in the neigh-

borhood for more than 15 years and never had a subterranean sewage system, paved streets or curb stones.

This elation is spreading, albeit slowly, to other parts of Baghdad, including Sadr. There, the Office of Transition Initiatives, a branch of the U.S. Agency for International Development, hired more than 12,000 residents to clean up the streets and free them of trash. Gayton said, “When residents start to see positive things, there’s a snowball effect.”

The push for power in Sadr City has been ongoing since heavy fighting in the sector came to an end in June. Of the 83 sub-divided sectors of Sadr, 15 of them either have power contracts in the works or are completed. For the remaining sectors, a \$121 million contract is in the works. The contracts cover parts and labor for utility poles, transformers, and lines that run directly to panel boxes in homes.

Currently, 12 sectors of Sadr have been contracted to have potable water piped to residences, four of which are nearing completion. A contract is prepared and awaiting funding for the remaining sectors. “There is a large number of residents, children specifically, who become very ill because they drink non-potable water,” Gayton said, adding that these projects will eventually remedy the problem.

All infrastructure repair projects in the city are funded from a combination of Iraqi government, U.S. government, and non-government organization funds. They utilize local contractors and laborers from the immediate area which, according to Gayton, is a motivating factor in ensuring the area is free of insurgents.

“We tell local leaders that we can’t contract the (infrastructure improvements in their area) if there’s violence toward coalition forces,” Gayton said. “The local leaders take it upon themselves to deal with insurgents.”

In addition to visiting work sites, USACE and the 2-3 BTB project teams receive feedback daily from maneuver units that patrol each area.

Spartan BCT units like 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, who regularly patrol Sadr City, speak with its local leaders and advisory council daily, to not only gauge the presence of insurgent forces in the area, but to assess the quality of life for the residents.

Units also check with locals to ensure the contractors and laborers are doing what’s in the neighborhood’s best interest.

Overall, Gayton feels that improvements throughout Eastern Baghdad are going very well, much to the credit of the Iraqi people. “Right now... our job is to help Iraqis help themselves — to show them the path to success,” he said. “They’re doing the work to rebuild their country.”

Gayton concluded, “That’s the only way we’ll be successful – to establish a safe, secure environment through helping them improve their daily lives.”



**Lt. Col. Jamie Gayton, commander, 2-3 BTB, speaks with a local woman in a Baghdad neighborhood. Work was recently completed on the neighborhood's first-ever sewer line.**

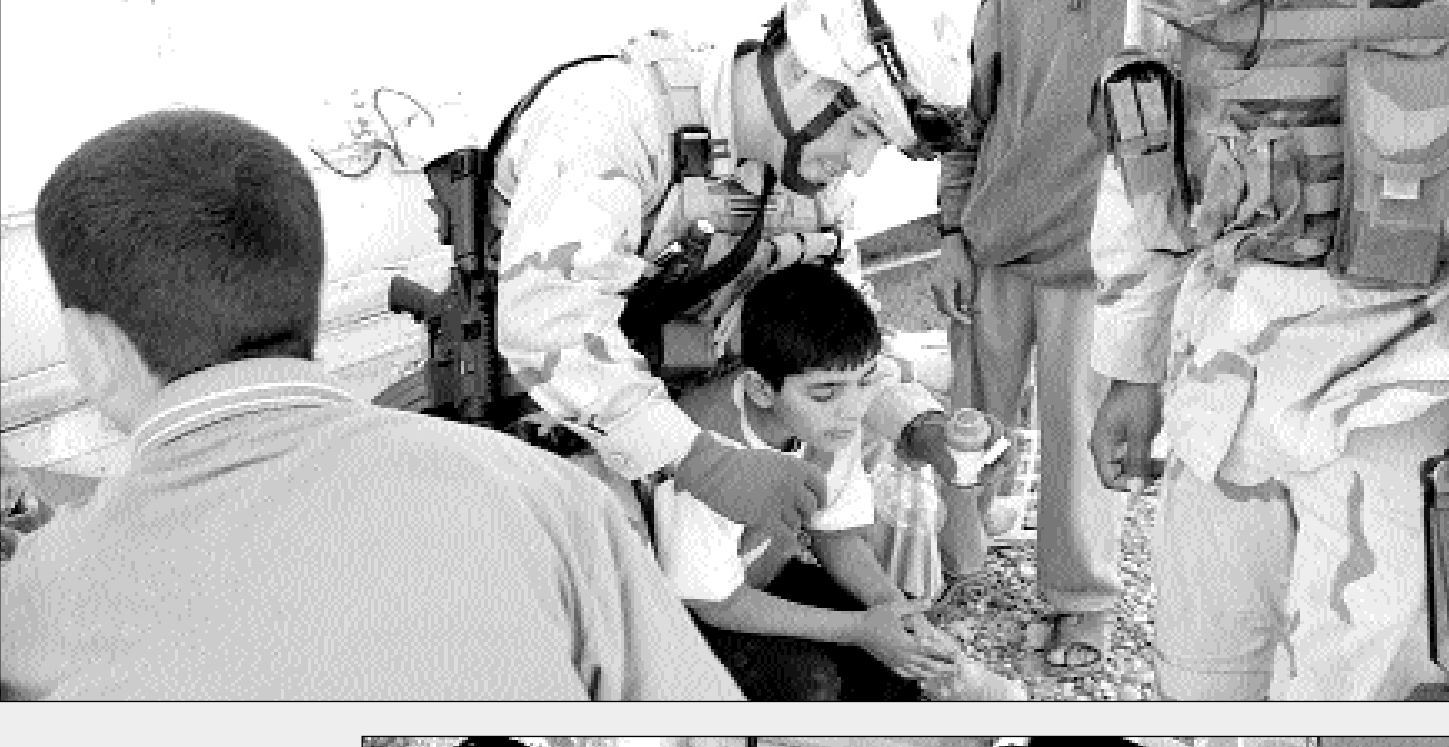


**Local workers dig a trench for a sewer line in Zafar, Baghdad in early March.**



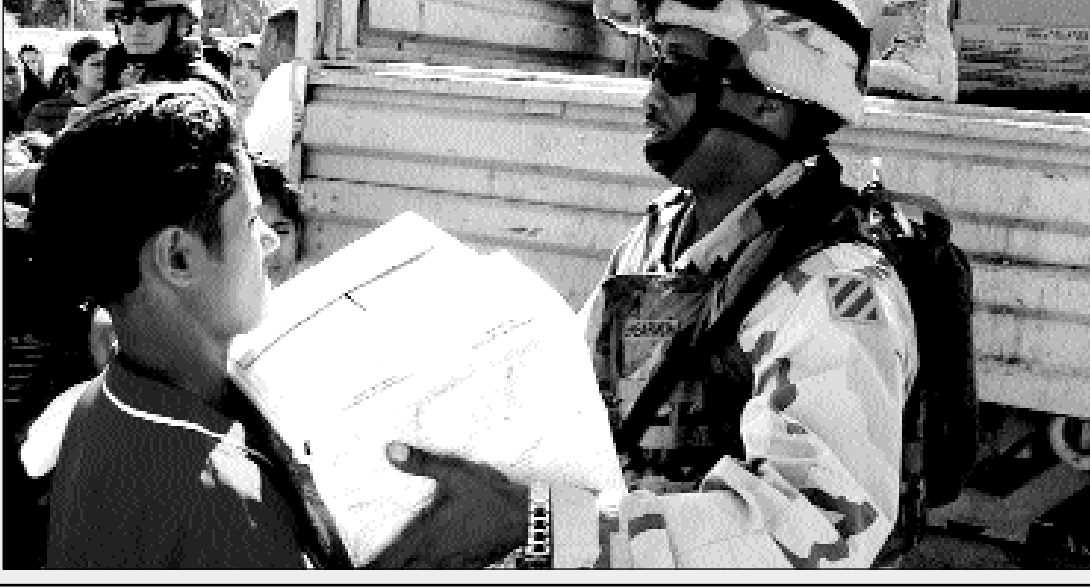
# Operation gives aid to locals

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In a mission dubbed Operation Aid Drop, Soldiers from D Co., 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment delivered donated items ranging from bottled water to clothing to the residents in the central Baghdad area Mar. 21. Many of the items were donated from organizations in the United States.

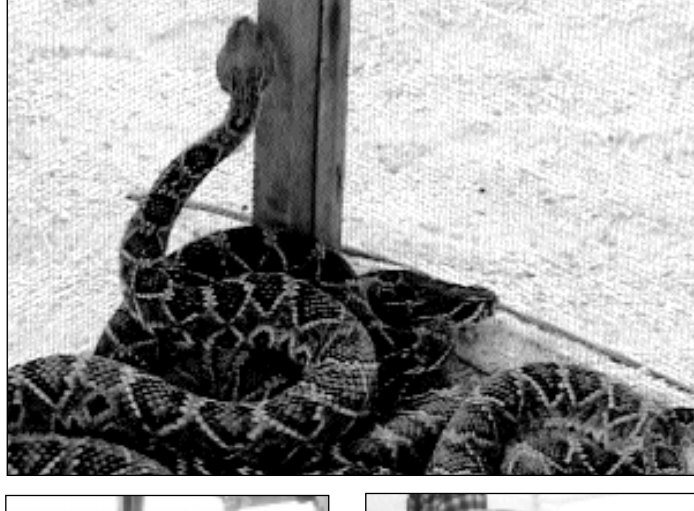


(Above) CAMP PROSPERITY — Capt. Thomas Venable, from the Joint Area Support Group, helps an Iraqi child blow bubbles. Bubbles and other children's toys were part of the items the Soldiers delivered Mar. 21 during Operation Aid Drop.

(Right) Staff Sgt. Licedric Spearmon from 4/64 Armor, hands a box of water to a resident.



## Rattlesnake Roundup ... thrills and chills



Maj. Benjamin Matthews, executive officer, 3d ID Fires Brigade, marched in the 38th Annual Rattlesnake Roundup Parade.

The Matthews Family participated in the morning parade and enjoyed the activities throughout the day. Fires Brigade also provided a color guard to march in the parade and enjoy the luncheon. This event is one of the top 20 events in southeast Georgia and draws larger crowds every year.

Saturday's activities began with the parade at 1,000 to the Veterans Center for a barbeque luncheon and then to the fairgrounds for handcrafted arts & crafts.

There were rattlesnakes on exhibit, live musical entertainment, cloggers, snake hunters.

Sunday featured gospel singing, more arts & crafts, roundup souvenirs and MORE rattlesnakes.

Milking demonstrations were a part of the snake demonstrations throughout the day. The snake venom is used for the anti-venom serum and for research. The venom is also being tested for use in certain medicines for treatment of various diseases.

# Tiger Brigade recruits next generation of Iraqi Policemen

Story and photos by  
**Spc. Erin Robicheaux**  
*Task Force Baghdad*

**CAMP TIGERLAND, Baghdad** — In a collaborative effort to build the security forces in Iraq, several elements of the 256th Brigade Combat Team participated in their second Iraqi Police recruitment.

Maj. Kenneth Donnelly, is the 256th Brigade Combat Team Provost Marshal, and says this recruitment event was so successful that he requested more slots and got them, due to the large turnout.

In the end, a total of 331 Iraqi personnel were given a letter of acceptance for the Baghdad Academy and 136 for the Jordan Academy.

Donnelly contributes a large portion of the success of the recruitment to the success of the recent elections.

“The economy has a lot to do with it, there are so few jobs,” Donnelly said. “But in the large spectrum, overall recruitment is up and I think that after the public saw how their own people got out there provided protection and saw that they were capable, it gave them a whole new respect. Now they want to be a part of it.”

The first step, as with any career move, is for the recruits to fill out an application. The forms are written in English and Arabic, and an instructor uses an overhead projector with an identical transparency of the application so the recruits can follow along. This provides extra insurance that no mistakes are made in the process. Once the application is complete, the recruits begin moving through a round-robin scenario; going through different stations in order to complete the recruitment exercises.

“Some will go to the literacy test, some do their background checks. They also have to go through a medical exam and a physical fitness test,” said Capt. Jeff Musumeche, Strength Accounting Officer, 256th Brigade Combat Team.

Musumeche, is the officer-in-charge of the Iraq Recruiting Processing Center, and says that the recruits will finish in the same place where they began — with him.

“They begin with me in the application process, and after completing each station, they bring all of their paperwork with their scores



**Spc. Karen Gangloff, medic, C Co., 199th Forward Support Battalion, checks the blood pressure of a potential Iraqi Police recruit. The recruits had to pass a physical exam, fitness test, background check, and a literacy test for entrance into the Jordan Police Academy. Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team conducted operations for the event.**

on it, and out-process through me,” he said.

Then, they report back for the Jordan and Baghdad Police Academies.

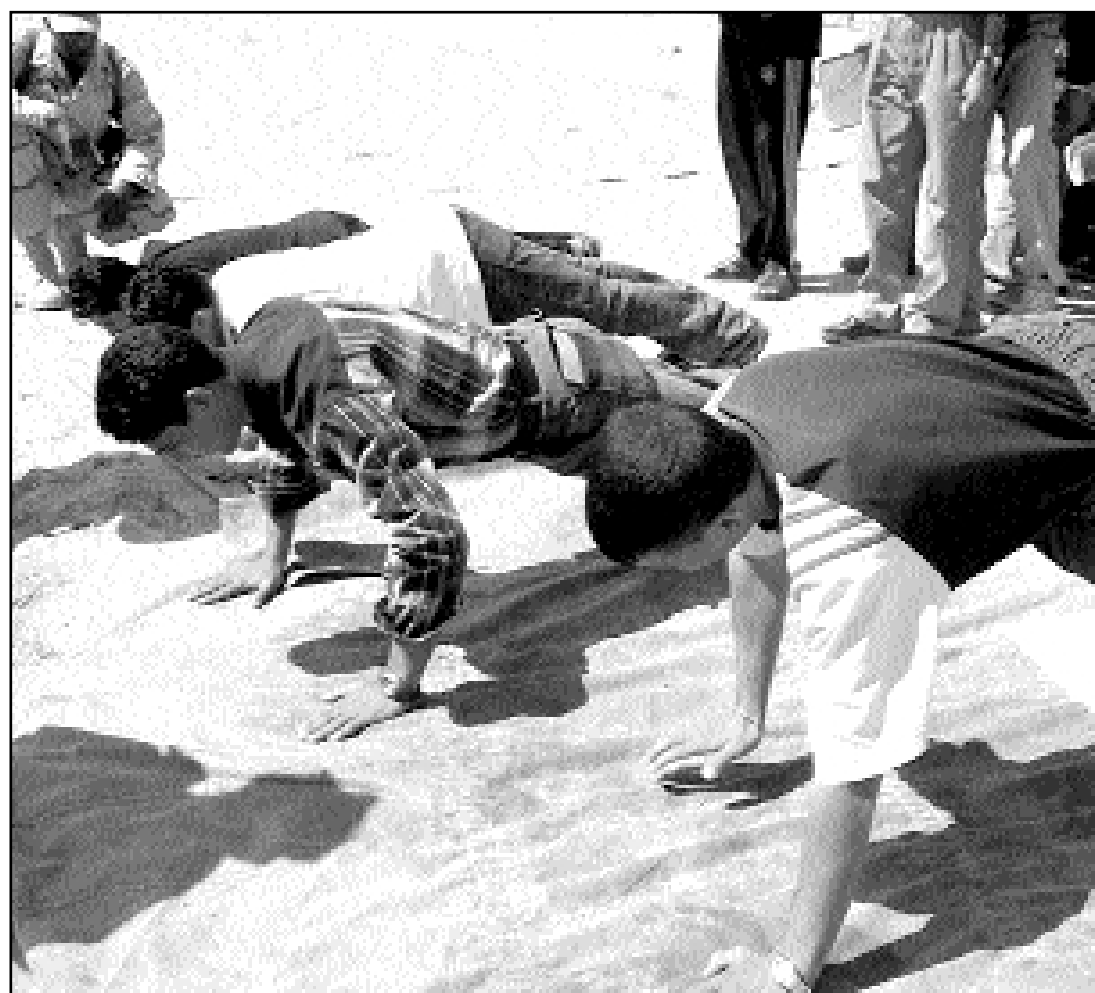
The recruitment lasts for two days. Potential police officers are referred from a variety of places. Task forces of the 256th BCT are given a quota to recruit from their areas-of-operation, and this generally comes from their local contacts; people they meet while on patrol.

The IP recruits also make their way to the medical sta-

tion, where they are screened for any illnesses or injuries that may prevent them from living the life of a police officer.

Spc. Karen Gangloff, a Medic with C Co., 199th Forward Support Battalion, volunteered to participate in the event. She said that it felt good to have the chance to work with the Iraqi population.

“My usual duties include running sick call, and taking care of any traumas that might come in,” she said. “Working



**Iraqi Police recruits participate in a physical fitness test, where they were required to perform 10 push-ups and sit-ups, and run a 440 meter dash.**

with local nationals is something that I rarely get to do, and it was neat to get outside and see something different.”

She and the other medics checked vital signs, such as pulse and blood pressure, and if the recruits had any major problems, they were sent to the physicians. According to Gangloff, though, they were mainly in good health, and she enjoyed their company.

“This is a good experience,” she said.

Perhaps the least favorite part of any security force

screen is the physical fitness test, but two Soldiers from the 256th BCT Civil Affairs Office did their best to make the occasion a little more bearable.

Master Sgt. Tony Harrington and Sgt 1st Class Natasha McZeal oversaw the physical fitness test portion of the recruitment process, and said that they wouldn’t accept failure from anyone.

“I haven’t had a no-go yet,” said Harrington. “Everybody will pass. They are only allowed to take the test once,

but we make sure that they are motivated enough to pull through.”

McZeal says the law enforcement prospects all had a good outlook and she commended them for their determination.

“These guys are coming here and risking their lives, not only to take a test, but to become Iraqi Police Officers,” she said.

“We (Soldiers) risk our lives, too, but they have to stay here,” she said.

# 24th ID Surgeon's Office provides training for 48th

Story and photos by  
Pfc. James Tamez  
19th PAD

Amidst the smoke, with bullets flying and mortar rounds impacting all around, one Soldier can be the difference between an injured comrade making it home alive... or not.

The 24th Infantry Division Surgeon's Office is responsible for ensuring the medics of the 48th Brigade Combat Team receive the training necessary to ensure they are prepared for similar circumstances during their upcoming deployment to Iraq.

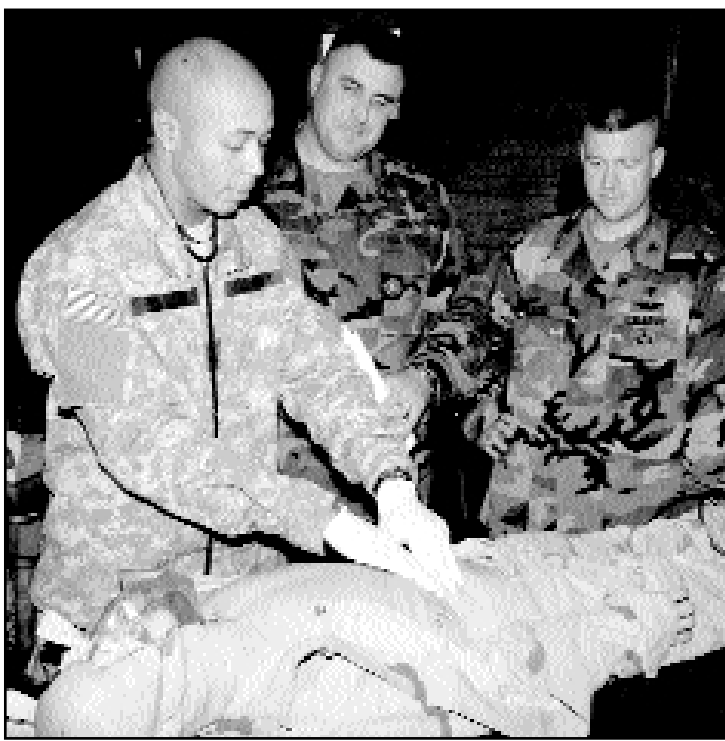
To accomplish this, the Surgeon's Office representatives from 24th ID and 1st Army have been running a 91W combat medic refresher and transition training course at Fort Stewart, Ga., for the deploying medics.

"(Our course) is an Army Medical approved program of instruction for all medics who are going overseas into a combat zone," said Maj. Dustin Elder, division medical planner, 24th ID.

All 180-plus medics assigned to the 48th are required to participate in this training to ensure the 48th BCT is fully trained and staffed when they deploy, Elder said.

For the training, the 24th ID brought in 16 medical instructors from Fort Sam Houston, Texas, the home of the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School and U.S. Army Medical Command.

"We have supported these instructors with everything they need to accomplish their training mission. The biggest



**Sgt. Alden Williams, C Co., 148th (Medical), 48th BCT (left), performs an abdominal check on a simulated patient while his instructor, Staff Sgt. Russell Bowles, 13th Bn. NHS, and Maj. Dustin Elder, division medical planner, 24th ID, observe. It is the responsibility of the 24th to provide training oversight for the 48th BCT before their deployment to Iraq.**

part was getting all of the medical equipment and instructors here," Elder said.

The Army recently combined two medical MOSs — 91B (combat medic) and 91C (licensed practical nurse), to create the 91W — Health Care Specialist MOS.

This new position focuses the medics' efforts toward helping to save lives on the battlefield, maintaining care until the patient can be removed to a medical facility, and providing more highly trained medics for service in hospital wards.

"There are things these Soldiers need to be able to do

as medics," said Master Sgt. Douglas Mayes, Pre-deployment noncommissioned officer in charge, 13th Bn. National Health Services.

"We try to make the training as realistic as possible so that these Soldiers will have the confidence to do their jobs. It helps place them in a proper mindset when there is a lot to deal with. They have to be able to manage the scene, care for the patients correctly, have a good count on the number of patients and use the proper equipment on the patients."

Elder said these Soldiers are among the first to go through the recently approved 21 day



**Staff Sgt. Jacob Myers, 1st Bn. 108th (Armor), 48th BCT acts as a casualty during 91W testing. The testing area was created to simulate possible combat conditions, including poor lighting, smoke and sound effects.**

recertification training. He added this training has been specially tailored for the medics of the 48th BCT.

"Not only are these Soldiers getting combat trauma training, which is vital for their mission, they are getting all the latest after-action-review comments coming out of the Iraqi theater," Elder said. "This is all geared towards what they may see in Iraq."

Due to the number of medics within the 48th BCT, multiple cycles have been arranged to ensure everyone is properly trained. The cycle consists of classroom instruction and hands-on training.

During the final three days of the training cycle, the medics undergo testing of what they've learned during the class.

The instructors have set up a simulated combat scene — a mock dining facility that has taken mortar fire — leaving multiple casualties.

These casualties are represented by soldiers made up with simulated wounds, complete with fake blood. medical

training dummies are used as well.

"The training seems pretty realistic," said Sgt. 1st Class Vincenzo Battaglia, HHC 1st Bn., 48th BCT. "They have sound, visuals (poor lighting and smoke) and obstacles the medics have to work around. There is debris around the patients and they aren't perfectly on their back like they would be in an emergency room."

"Also, they are in between barricades, on chairs and against walls," he said.

This particular scenario is used to see how the Soldiers would react in a combat situation. "Medics have to find the patients, triage them quickly, identify which ones have life threatening wounds and treat them based upon the signs and symptoms that are shown by the wounded."

"This is dual purpose training that all 91Ws have to go through," Elder said. "When they complete this course and pass the tests, they will be qualified as National Registry Emergency Medical Technicians, have certi-

fication in pre-hospital trauma life support, get trauma airways certification and Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation certification.

Finally, to receive this certification, the Soldiers have to pass the Semi-Annual Combat Medic Skills Validation Test.

Mayes said this type of training is necessary to make sure these Soldiers will be able to face dangerous situations and be confident they can handle it. This confidence is a necessity when you consider their responsibilities.

"The casualties that we take in war are minimized by the medics," Mayes said. "The numbers who survive and come home to their families are increased dramatically by medics knowing what to do and how to do it."

"Our goal is for them to have the confidence to save lives. Then we will have accomplished our mission."

Mayes also gave high praises for the work the 24th ID staff has done to make this training possible.

# Medical unit hone life saving skills and techniques



Sgt. Roy Henry

**Combat medics with Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 108th Armor, determine what injuries brought an “Iraqi” citizen to their aid station at Forward Operating Base Cartwright.**

## Irish hero honored on St. Pat’s Day

**Nancy Gould**  
*Frontline Staff*

Savannah’s St. Patrick’s Day traditions continued in spite of wet, chilly weather.

Every year on Mar. 16, the day before the parade, a memorial ceremony honoring the Irish-American Revolutionary War hero, Sgt. William Jasper, kicks off the celebration.

This year, the 4:45 p.m. memorial ceremony was held at the Desoto Hilton. But normally, a procession including the 3rd Inf. Div. Color Guard and the 3rd Inf. Div. Band, begins the event with a march from Johnson Square to Madison Square where active duty and retired military servicemen and friends gather to commemorate the hero with accolades from the ceremony’s guest speakers.

Those who spoke at the in ceremony this year included Brian Cowen, minister of Finance, Dublin Ireland; Otis Johnson, Savannah’s mayor; Pete Liakakis, chairman, Chatham County Commission; Father Patrick O’Brien, chaplain to the Grand Marshall; Daniel Sheehan, 2005 Grand Marshall; Lt. Col. (Ret) Frank

Baker, master of ceremonies; and keynote speaker, Brig. Gen. Larry Ross, commander, 78th Troop Command, Georgia Army National Guard.

After the remarks, the colors were presented by the 3rd Inf. Div. Color Guard, followed by performances from the Army Ground Forces Band; the Irish Air Corps Pipes and Drums Band; the Old Guard’s Fife and Drum Corps and other special groups.

Afterward, attendees moved out into Madison Square’s damp air, located adjacent to the Hilton, for a 21-gun salute from 165th Airlift Wing Honor Guard, followed by “Taps,” and to watch Command Sgt. Maj. Lewis Kellam, Hunter Army Airfield garrison command sergeant major, lay a wreath at the base of the Jasper monument.

As a non-commissioned officer, Kellam’s participation had special significance in the ceremony. Jasper, also a non-commissioned officer, is the only enlisted Soldier in Georgia (and only a few in the country) to have a monument erected in his honor, according to Vincent Powers, former general chairman of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee.

Jasper was killed at the Siege of Savannah while res-

**Sgt. Roy Henry**  
*Ga. NG Public Affairs*

Every day on television and radio one sees and hears how American service members and Iraqi civilians are being injured or killed by insurgents in that war-torn country. What one often doesn’t see is the effort put forth by medical and non-medical personnel to stem the flow of blood, to save a life damaged by those attacks.

It takes people with steady nerves and a commitment to saving lives to do that, and that’s why the combat medics and the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 108th Armor and the 48th Brigade Combat Team are at Fort Stewart.

The 48th is here at Fort Stewart training for its year long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. With more than 4,000 Soldiers involved, this deployment is the largest of its kind since World War II.

“When we hit the ground in Iraq, we have got to be ready for anything and everything,” said medic Sgt. Robert Waters. “We’re not only going to be treating Soldiers, but also civilians and we have got to know how to deal with those situations.”

“It’s not like he and his fellow medics across the brigade never train for such contingencies,” he added. “It’s just that with the circumstances in Iraq being what they are the need for them to sharpen their life-saving skills down to the finest

detail is just that more important.”

Throughout the 108th’s recent occupation of Forward Operating Base Cartwright, Waters said, he and his fellow medics have been hit with every kind of medical scenario, from broken bones to gunshot wounds to blast injuries.

At one point, their stress level was pushed to its limits when trainers from the Army’s 4th and 5th Training Support brigades, hit them with a mass casualty exercise.

The scene inside the compound was one of chaos as the medical section had its assets stretched to their limits dealing with the results of a mortar attack.

“On top of that, we were handling casualties caused by “insurgents” who hit a mid-morning patrol,” Waters said. “Each one had to be triaged and treated according to its seriousness.

“Those who could wait, did, while those that needed more extensive treatment than we could provide as a an aid station were evacuated to a combat support hospital or a surgical team somewhere away from the battle zone.”

Fellow medic Pfc. Brian Yawn called the training intense and a great challenge to a medic’s capabilities.

“Getting pushed to your limits can really be frustrating, at times, but what it does is help you realize that you can do the job and save a life even under the toughest conditions,” he said confidently.



**Daniel Sheehan, 2005 Grand Marshall (left) and Sgt. Maj. Lewis Kellam, Hunter Army Airfield garrison command sergeant major, lay a wreath at the base of the Jasper monument in Madison Square.**



# Ranger medics earn Expert Field Medical Badge at Fort Benning

Story and Photos by  
**Kim Laudano**  
75th Ranger Regiment PAO

**FORT BENNING, Ga. —** For the first time in five years, medics from the 75th Ranger Regiment received the Expert Field Medical Badge, EFMB, during a ceremony here Feb. 25.

More than 70 Ranger medics began the intensive two-week training course and test required to earn the badge, and 55 earned the EFMB, according to Sgt. 1st Class Brian Chase, Expert Field Medical Badge test control officer.

The Rangers attained the highest overall EFMB pass rate in the Army since 1999, Chase said.

The EFMB recognizes Army medical personnel for proficiency in field medical functions and is awarded on the basis of skill and performance, according to U.S. Army regulations.

"The 75th Ranger Regiment has set the standard for medical personnel Armywide," Chase said. "Their innovative and challenging approach to preparing their medics exemplified the adage that Rangers lead the way."

Chase said the Ranger medics also had a 100 percent pass rate on the EFMB's written test, which was the highest team score since the implementation of new written standards for the program in January 2004.

Prior the start of the Global War on Terrorism in 2001, the 75th conducted the EFMB test once every two years. This was the first opportunity for Ranger medics to test for the badge in more than five years, according to Master Sgt. Harold Montgomery, senior medic, 75th Ranger Regt.

Montgomery said a Ranger medic has dual responsibilities.



**Medics assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment practice evacuating a casualty while training to earn the Expert Field Medical Badge.**

"A Ranger medic is expected to be a combat multiplier in that he is a medical expert, but also a Ranger shooter until someone needs him for medical care," said Montgomery.

Ranger medics must meet all of the same physical, mental, readiness and training standards of the infantry Rangers they support.

"The mission of the Ranger medic is to ensure that a Ranger is healthy and ready to hit a target, keep that Ranger healthy while engaged on the target and bring a healthy Ranger home safely," Montgomery said.

Montgomery said that EFMB testing tasks are very similar to those used for Expert Infantryman Badge testing. Similarities include testing land navigation, communications, nuclear, biological and chemical survival skills, and a 12-mile road march.

In addition to these infantry tasks, medics completed a written test covering broad areas of medical assessment and treatment, preventative medicine,

field sanitation and casualty evacuation.

Other tasks for the EFMB include hands-on testing in litter evacuation, manual casualty carries and loading and unloading evacuation platforms.

These skills are tested instead of the infantry-focused EIB tasks of calling in artillery, emplacing mines, establishing firing positions and other infantry tasks.

"An EFMB candidate calls for a medevac helicopter where an EIB (Expert Infantry Badge) candidate calls for artillery fire," explained Montgomery.

"The testing is challenging, but we were prepared, said Spc. Michael Newton, HHC, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. "The regiment did a lot of advance training with us in the classroom. We were lectured on each topic and we quizzed each other regularly in the barracks."

"Our instructors were very helpful," said Spc. Darin Carpenter, also with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st

Battalion, 75th Regt. "The senior instructors were interested in everyone's success. They had us practice 'hands on' during both weekends that we were there and it really paid off."

For many Ranger medics, the EFMB will accompany a Combat Medical Badge already earned during deployments in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. While the EFMB displays that a medic is ready for real-world combat, the CMB displays that a medic has met the challenges of real-world combat, said Montgomery.

Spc. Webster Slavens, Co. A, 3rd Battalion, 75th Regt. earned his CMB during a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "Hopefully this training has helped better prepare us for our next trip overseas," he said. Slavens was also presented with an award for having the fastest road march time during the testing.

"Specialist Slavens is a very motivated medic and others



**Medics assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment train to earn the Expert Field Medical Badge. 55 Ranger medics were awarded the EFMB in a ceremony held at Fort Benning, Ga.**



**A medic practices saving a casualty while training to earn the Expert Field Medical Badge.**

should look up to him for his knowledge and skills," said Sgt. Anthony Moore, senior medic, Co. A, 3rd Bn., 75th Ranger Regt. "His real-world medical knowledge helped him prepare for success in the EFMB testing." Moore also earned the EFMB.

For a medic to be eligible to test for the EFMB, he or she must volunteer for the testing; be recommended by his or her commander; be physically prepared to cope with the rigorous demands of the test and be CPR-qualified, said Capt. J.C. Kelsey, medical operations officer, 75th Ranger Regt.

"Three different battalions were involved in this training," said Carpenter.

"It was interesting to meet other medics and to compare differences in how we perform our jobs. We had a chance to learn from each other."

Prior to arriving here for testing, the medics prepared locally at their respective units.

There is also a training phase built into the EFMB schedule.

In addition, the Ranger EFMB schedule also typically includes an intensive train-up and pre-testing period prior to the actual test, added Montgomery.



3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart	Hunter	Winn /Tuttle
<p><b>Bowling and Golf</b></p> <p>Free bowling and shoe rental at Marne and Hunter Lanes, 1 — 5 p.m., the last Saturday of the month, for Soldiers and family members.</p> <p>No golf fees at Taylors Creek and Hunter Courses from 1 — 5 p.m., the last Thursday of every month. Golf cart rental, \$7 per person for 9 holes or \$12 for 18 holes.</p> <p><b>Library</b></p> <p>Read a Poem to Your Sweetheart — Schedule a 30 minute appointment to record a DVD of you reading to your sweetheart, from 1 to 8:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Army Hooah Race</b></p> <p>Soldiers, civilians, family members and friends of the Army are invited to participate in the 4th Annual Army Hooah Race Jun. 11.The race starts at 7:30 a.m. in the metro-Atlanta area. Come and enjoy the fun.</p> <p>For more information, call Sgt. Maj. William Bissonette at (404) 464-8228 or by e-mail at <a href="mailto:william.bissonette@us.army.mil">william.bissonette@us.army.mil</a>.</p> <p><b>Shoes for tots</b></p> <p>1/64 Armor BN is sponsoring a "Shoe for Tots" drive for Iraqi children. Shoes should be in mint condition, all sizes needed. Drop off point is at Battalion headquarters 1/64 Armor, Bldg. 524, William H. Wilson Avenue. Collection ends on Apr. 1. Shoes can be dropped of anytime during that period. Point of contacts for this drive are B Co 1/64 FRG leaders Teri French and Maike Seymour. For more information, contact Maike Seymour @ 877-7466.</p> <p><b>Baseball</b></p> <p>Registration for youth Baseball, T-ball, &amp; Girls' Softball is currently underway and ends on Apr. 28. Registration is FREE and open to all CYS members living on or off post. Age groups for Baseball are 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, &amp; 15-17 (age as of 1 Aug '05), age group for T-ball is 4-6 (age as of 1 Aug '05), and age groups for Girls' Softball are 8-10 &amp; 11-12 (age as of 1 Jan '05). We must have at least 40 participants for each age group in order to have leagues for each sport.</p> <p>Register at Bldg. 443 on Gulick Avenue (next door to Corkan Pool). For more information, please call 767-2312 or 767-4371.</p> <p>We also need volunteers to help coach our sports teams! If you are interested in becoming a volunteer coach for Youth Sports, please stop by CYS, Bldg. 443 to fill out a volunteer form. Volunteer forms are also available at the Youth Sports Administration Office, Bldg. 7337 on Austin Road in Bryan Village.</p>	<p><b>Perimeter Road Closure</b></p> <p>Due to flooding, the north end of Perimeter Road, east of the 117th Control Sqdrn, is temporarily closed for repairs.</p> <p><b>Sweet Charities Flea Market</b></p> <p>Sunday, Apr. 3, 8 a.m.- 3 p.m., 5202 Waters Ave., between Quiznos &amp; Annie's Guitar Shop. Proceeds go to Hunter AAF Chaplin's Fund. To volunteer your time or merchandise call 912-927-9922 or <a href="mailto:MstarArts@aol.com">MstarArts@aol.com</a></p> <p><b>Free Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf</b></p> <p>Active duty Military personnel and their immediate families (spouses, parents and children) can get a free one-day ticket each day they attend the tournament, scheduled Apr. 18-24, at the Westin, Savannah Harbor Golf Resort &amp; Spa, when they show their Military ID at the main admission gate. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.libertymutuallegends.pgatour.com">www.libertymutuallegends.pgatour.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Dinner &amp; a Movie</b></p> <p>For all family members at HAAF, not just those living on post.</p> <p>Saturday, Apr. 23, Hunter Club, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. If you wish to attend, contact your FRG leader or Mr. Sanders at <a href="mailto:sandersd@savannahredcross.org">sandersd@savannahredcross.org</a> no later than April 18.</p>	<p><b>Flu Shot Program Expanded</b></p> <p>Tuttle Army Health Clinic has a flu shot clinic each Thursday, from 1 to 3 p.m. Flu vaccine is available to all DOD civilians, service members, military retirees, and dependents.</p> <p>For more information, call Preventive Medicine at 370-5071/5101.</p> <p><b>Soldiers Inn Dining Facility</b></p> <p>All are welcome for breakfast, lunch &amp; dinner served 7 days weekly. Open to Soldiers, civilians, guests and the general public. Call 352-2538 for information.</p> <p><b>Youth Programs</b></p> <p>Before-and-after school care for grades 1-5, rates based on income, 6-9 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. weekdays. Teen program for grades 6-12, from 3 - 6 p.m. weekdays, is free. Sessions include homework help, snacks, technology and crafts labs, and athletics activities.</p> <p><b>ESL Classes</b></p> <p>Basic and Intermediate-level English as a Second Language classes are free at the Hunter Army Airfield Education Center. Call 352-6130 to find out when and where the next class meets.</p> <p><b>Walk to Winn Program</b></p> <p>This 12-week walking program is designed to increase activity, water intake and fruit and vegetable consumption. Registration has begun and spaces are limited.</p> <p>For more information, call 370-5071 to reserve your place.</p> <p><b>Volunteer Orientation</b></p> <p>The next mandatory volunteer orientation at Winn will be held 9 - 11 a.m. Apr. 7 in Patriot Auditorium. Volunteers are welcome and needed in a variety of capacities at Winn.</p> <p>For more information, call 370-6903 or send an email to <a href="mailto:Brigitte.roberts@se.amedd.army.mil">Brigitte.roberts@se.amedd.army.mil</a>.</p> <p><b>EDIS</b></p> <p>Military families with children up to 3 years old who may be at risk for developmental delays can call Educational and Developmental Intervention Services for a free screening.</p> <p>Services include home visits, occupational therapy, special instruction, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, vision and hearing screenings, family training, developmental screenings and assessments. For more information, call 370-6370.</p> <p><b>Newborn TRICARE Prime</b></p> <p>Parents now have 60 days from the date of birth to enroll their newborn in TRICARE Prime. If the 60-day window is not met, the child will be automatically enrolled in TRICARE Standard.</p> <p>You must enroll your child in DEERS before you can enroll into TRICARE.</p> <p>For more information, 767-4909 or 352-5726. Call TRICARE at 1-800-444-5445.</p> <p><b>New Tuttle Pharmacy Hours</b></p> <p>The pharmacy is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday thru Wednesday and Friday. It is open 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 2 to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays. It is closed weekends and federal holidays.</p> <p><b>TRICARE Phone Numbers</b></p> <p>For general health care information, you can call the Human Military Audio Library at 877-217-7946.</p> <p>For more information of if you have questions about TRICARE, you can call TRICARE at 800-444-5445 or the Health Benefits Office at 370-6633 or 800-652-9221.</p>

# Caring about family housing GMH supports Stewart residents

Dianne Borges  
GMH Military Housing

It is the belief of GMH Military Housing that our business is more than just bricks and mortar; it is about relationships.

All of us at GMH believe that as a company and as individuals, we have a duty to provide a quality, well-managed living environment for every resident but also to treat residents and respond to their needs as if they were family members.

"Is not just good business, it is the right thing to do," says Bruce Robinson, President of GMH Military Housing.

Recognizing that the recent deployment created a difficult time for the families, GMH has organized a Teddy Bear Chain in local businesses in and around Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. Local residents can write words of encouragement to the families whose loved ones are on the home front. These letters and notes will be given out to the families. GMH is also looking to bring a little enchantment to family housing residents, and will be holding Leprechaun Alley at Club Stewart in March.

Children will enjoy the fun and games as well as craft-making projects for their parents who are deployed. There will be food and refreshments as well as prizes for the children. Family housing residents will receive more exciting details in the next few weeks.

On the housing front, GMH is ahead of schedule for new home construction at Fort Stewart and has just completed 78 brand new homes in Liberty Woods. Families are moving in



File photo

to the spacious and energy efficient homes as soon as they are ready. GMH and Centex Construction are completing 30 new homes a month.

Substantial renovations have been completed to over 200 homes in North and South Bryan Village, Eisenhower Village and Terrace, and Marne Homes.

The reaction of residents who moved in has been extremely favorable when they see the new hardwood-looking floors, six panel colonial doors and carpeting in the bedrooms.

In addition, the walls have been have been given a fresh new look with texture and paint; a complete rehab of the bathrooms with new walls; new ceramic tile floors; new light fixtures, vanities, toilets and sinks.

GMH is also giving each home more of a designer look with warm colors, modern lighting and an eye on safety.

"We completely upgraded all the electrical systems in the home with new wiring, circuit breaker panels, and switches," said Mark Musser, GMH's renovations manager.

All renovations have been done while the homes were vacant. GMH is currently assessing the feasibility of com-

pleting such renovations to occupied homes. With the assistance of Kim Stutz, mayor, Bryan Village South, this option is being discussed with the residents.

Responding to resident needs and requests, GMH completed 2,320 work orders in the last month. Repairs were made to such items as HVAC, water heaters, plumbing and appliances.

With spring around the corner, flowers will be planted shortly.

For those residents with fenced in yards who wish to make improvements, topsoil and grass seed are available at Self Help.

For GMH Military Housing, the ultimate objective is to create great communities where soldiers and their families can proudly call home and would wish to remain or return to throughout their military careers.

For those not yet living on base and reaping the benefits, there are two bedroom junior-enlisted homes currently available.

Any one with questions or interested in living in family housing, is welcome to contact the GMH Community Management Office at 408-2460.

## Ask The Judge

### Free Credit Report

**Ques.** Why should I request a free credit report?

**Ans.** Recently, Bank of America committed massive error with respect to the credit information of members of the Armed Forces.

A great deal of financial information was lost or compromised. Bank of America has admitted responsibility and has begun taking remedial measures to undo the damage.

Individual soldiers could have their personal financial information compromised. One way to find out is to request a credit report.

**Ques.** Am I entitled to a free credit report?

**Ans.** Georgia residents are entitled to a free credit report under Georgia state law.

With the adoption of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, all American citizens will be entitled to a free credit report.

Residents of western states will be the first to receive the entitlement to a free credit report.

Residents of eastern states will receive their entitlement to a free credit at a later point in time.

**Ques.** Who do I contact to receive a free credit report?

**Ans.** The contact information for the national credit repositories is as follows:

Experian  
[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)  
1-888-397-3742

Equifax  
[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)  
1-800-685-1111  
Equifax Credit Reporting Services, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 740241,  
Atlanta, GA 30374

Trans Union  
[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)  
1-800-916-8800  
Trans Union,  
P.O. Box 2000  
Chester, PA 19022

Innovis  
[www.innovis.com](http://www.innovis.com)  
1-800-540-2505  
Innovis Consumer Assistance  
P.O. Box 1358,  
Columbus, OH 43216-1358

**Ques.** What information do I need to provide?

**Ans.** The different credit reporting agencies require different information.

The most inclusive list of information needed includes:

Your Full Name  
Current Mailing Address  
Previous Addresses for the last 5 years  
Proof of Mailing Address  
Date of Birth  
Social Security Number  
Spouse's name  
Spouse's Social Security number



POLICE REPORTS

• **Subject:** Specialist, 28-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.  
• **Charge:** Failure to obey general order  
• **Location:** Hunter.

• **Subject:** Family member, 21-year-old male.  
• **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, illegal transfer of tag.  
• **Location:** Hunter.

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 31-year-old female, separate unit.  
• **Charges:** Driving while license revoked, speeding 41/30.  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Private, 27-year-old male, 1st Bde.  
• **Charge:** Wrongful possession of marijuana.  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 29-year-old male, 4th Bde.  
• **Charges:** Drunken driving, speeding 57/45.  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Captain, 35-year-old female, separate unit.  
• **Charges:** Failure to yield right of way, failure to obey traffic device.  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Civilian, 28-year-old male.  
• **Charge:** Theft of public property.  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, 1st Bde.  
• **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana.  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Specialist19-year-old male, 4th Bde.  
• **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property.  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Sergeant 1st Class, 34-year-old male, 2nd Bde.  
• **Charges:** Larceny of government funds, fraud, false



official statement.  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.  
• **Subject:** Family member, 45-year-old female.  
• **Charges:** Criminal trespassing, theft of public property.  
• **Location:** Hunter.

• **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old male, separate unit.  
• **Charges:** Driving uner the influence (alcohol), failure to maintain lane.  
• **Location:** Hinesville.

• **Subject:** Civilian, 39-year-old male.

• **Charges:** Child abuse, entering military property  
• **Location:** Hunter.

• **Subject:** Civilian, 35-year-old female.  
• **Charges:** Reckless driving, passing in a no passing zone  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, 4th Bde.  
• **Charges:** Rape, forced sodomy.  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Family member, 37-year-old female.,  
• **Charges:** Mutual affray, assault on a police officer.  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 35-year-old female, separate unit.  
• **Charge:** Disorderly conduct.  
• **Location:** Savannah.

• **Subject:** Specialist, 34-year-old male, 4th Bde..  
• **Charge:** Drunken driving.  
• **Location:** Fort Stewart.

• **Subject:** Family member, 24-year-old female.  
• **Charge:** Disorderly conduct.  
• **Location:** Hunter.

• **Subject:** Family member, 29-year-old female.  
• **Charge:** Child neglect.  
• **Location:** Hunter.

News briefs from Iraq

**Detainee leads Task Force Baghdad Soldiers to weapons caches**  
**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — A detainee questioned about a recent improvised explosive device attack, led Task Force Baghdad Soldiers to two weapons caches on March 24. The first site had improvised explosive devices, IED components, caller ID boxes and volt meters. At the second location the Soldiers found two 160 millimeter rockets and ammunition.

The Soldiers continued to search the area and discovered a third weapons cache containing rocket propelled grenades, night vision goggles, and recoilless rifles. Task Force Baghdad Soldiers also found another weapons cache containing three mortar rounds and an IED trigger device.

**Iraqi Police discover murder victims in parked car**  
**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Iraqi Police officers found five local nationals killed by small arms fire in a car parked in west Baghdad on March 24. The policemen approached a blue opal sedan with multiple bullet holes in the exterior and discovered the bodies of five women inside the car. Four of the women were contractors at a U.S. military installation. The Iraqi Police took the vehicle and remains to a nearby police station.

**Iraqi Firefighters extinguish farmland fire**  
**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Iraqi Firefighters put out a large fire burning in open farmland just south of Baghdad yesterday afternoon.Task Force Baghdad Soldiers attempted to fight the fire, but when the fire grew too large they called the Iraqi Firefighters.The Iraqi Firefighters arrived on site at about 1 PM and had the fire under control less than two hours later.

**Task Force Baghdad Soldiers find, detonate 3 IEDs**  
**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Three insurgents’ improvised explosive attacks failed after explosive ordinance disposal teams detonated three IED’s on March 23.

In Southeast Baghdad, Task Force Baghdad Soldiers found an explosive device described as an artillery shell in a box. An explosive ordinance disposal team was called in to detonate the IED. After detonating the device, the Soldiers unearthed a second round. The explosive ordinance team safely detonated the round.In North Baghdad, an IED consisting of five silver cylinders with wires protruding out was discovered by Task Force Baghdad Soldiers. An explosive ordinance team safely set off the device.





Spc. Erin Robicheaux

**The most recent piece of equipment Operation Iraqi Freedom Soldiers have to defeat improvised explosive devices is the heavily-armored "Buffalo" vehicle designed for route clearance, giving patrols a closer look at suspected IEDs.**

# 23-ton Buffalo added to 256th combat arsenal

**Spc. Erin Robicheaux**  
256th BCT PAO

**CAMP TIGERLAND, Baghdad** — A new Soldier has been initiated into the Tiger Brigade family and taken up residence with the 1088th Engineering Battalion. The Buffalo is the most recent equipment to defeat improvised explosive devices and just like its name suggests, the 23-ton machine is made of monstrous proportions, and appears to be virtually unstoppable.

It is a heavily-armored vehicle designed for route clearance, giving patrols a closer look at suspected IEDs. This way it can be confirmed that an IED is present before bringing an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team onto the scene.

1st Lt. Cecil Piazza of Company A, 1088th En. Bn. has played an active role in bringing the new addition to the 256th Brigade Combat Team. He explained how the machine works.

"It (the Buffalo) is equipped with a 30-foot extension, called an Ironclaw, which is operated from within the vehicle. Once an IED is spotted by a route clearance team, it can be investigated without getting physically on the ground to look at it."

The operator uses the Ironclaw to probe debris and dirt from around the questionable device and also has an extra set of eyes mounted on top to help decipher the identity of the object. Working hand in hand with a television screen inside the vehicle, a 200X zoom video camera has a bird's eye view of everything. According to Spc. Chris Johnson, it has the capability to help the crew see clearly.

"Yesterday I was familiarizing myself with the camera, and I zoomed in on a Soldier who was working in that building over there in the motor pool." The building

in question was more than 150 yards away."

The Buffalo seats six, with the driver and operator at the front and the four remaining Soldiers behind them designated as "eyes." The crew is seated about 10 - 12 feet off of the ground and also has access to an extra set of searchlights that are maneuvered from inside the vehicle. With the lights, the camera, and the 30-foot "arm," they will be able to search anywhere they feel there is a threat.

Piazza says he and his men received a course on the specifications and operations of the Buffalo. They were trained by the 458th Engineers and received classroom instruction, as well as on-the-job training. They were afforded the opportunity to go with the team on missions, and about 75 percent of what they learned was from actually conducting route clearance in the area of operation. Since his unit's main mission has been to escort EOD, Piazza feels that there is no one better for the job than he and his men.

"We know every single route in the brigade's area of operation," he said, "we know the trends, and we know the patterns and habits like the backs of our hands."

Based on the intelligence gathered through patrol debriefings and information sent down to the company level, the Buffalo will be tasked out to the desired patrols. This is the most recent example of the Tiger Brigade receiving the latest high-tech equipment to help battle the war on terror. The Buffalo's purpose is to keep Soldiers protected from IEDs.

Piazza and the A Company Soldiers will accompany the patrolling units, and he has faith that this will prove to be a viable asset.

"In light of the activity and tragedies in December and January, the Buffalo will be a great asset and resource for the brigade to have," he said.

# Task Force Baghdad helps Iraqis improve quality of life

**Spc. Erin Robicheaux**  
TFB Public Affairs

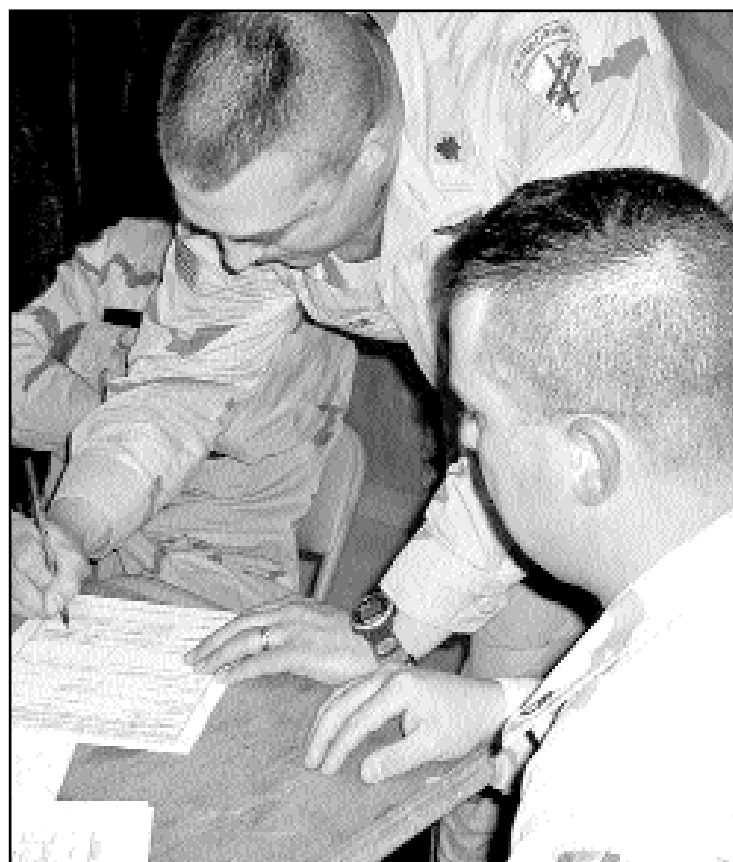
**MAHMUDIYAH, Iraq**—Renovations and improvements are essential for the nation of Iraq to change for the better, and the 1088th Engineer Battalion of the 256th Brigade Combat Team is committed to making that happen and combined forces with the 407th Civil Affairs Battalion to pay Iraqi contractors for the work that they have done to improve the quality of life for their own people.

"They (insurgents) have been putting a lot of improvised explosive devices in the roads, so we've hired local contractors to fix the potholes, and to pave, clear, and widen the streets," said Staff Sgt. Robert Bourgoyne, of Headquarters Company, 1088th. Bourgoyne, is a pay officer for the 256th BCT, and says this process not only improves the road conditions for the locals in the community, but it's also necessary to keep Soldiers safe.

"By widening the roads, it will deny access to put IEDs really close to where the patrols may pass, it gives a little more standoff distance; and even if an IED is set off, it'll be far enough away from the road that hopefully it will prevent some casualties," he said.

Two projects in Mahmudiyah are bringing water to residents of the area.

The East Mahmudiyah Pipe Project is combined with the reconstruction of a local water plant which has not been used since 1972, but thanks to combined efforts of the 256th BCT, 407th CA Bn., and local contractors, it is up and running



Spc. Erin Robicheaux

**Staff Sgt. Robert Bourgoyne, pay officer, 1088th Eng. Bn., 256th Brigade Combat Team observes Maj. David Langfellow, commander, A Co., 407th Civil Affairs Bn., as he signs off on some paperwork to pay a local contractor for his work on a water pipeline project. The project was part of mission to bring a better quality of life to the people of the Mahmudiyah area.**

again. The pipe project is now bringing water into homes in the area.

Maj. David Langfellow, commander of A Company, 407th CA Bn., says this venture is bringing water to at least three neighborhoods in the Mahmudiyah vicinity.

"Basically, the contractor who was overseeing the water plant rebuilt and refurbished the entire building — everything from the power supply to electrical pumps," he said.

Langfellow said the contractor also rebuilt all of the water-holding facilities, fixed windows, cleaned up foliage around the building, and even rebuilt part of the building itself and painted it.

"He really brought it back to life," Langfellow said. "He's a great contractor; he accomplished his mission."

And according to Langfellow, locals accomplishing missions like this are what will help U.S. Forces accomplish theirs.



# Former political prisoner recalls incarceration

Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich  
Task Force Baghdad

**CAMP LOYALTY, Iraq** — The Directorate of General Security and Special Security office — the compound that is now Camp Loyalty. To some Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, it is their home. To some Iraqis, it is still a symbol of fear, torture and death at the hands of the former regime.

Most Iraqis, like Anmar Abdel Ali, knew, or at least believed, if you were sent to the compound and its prison, you weren't leaving there alive.

The prison held anyone who was considered a "threat to the regime." Ali was one of those threats.

On Mar. 11, he visited Camp Loyalty and the prison where he was held for three months.

At 22, Ali was arrested in Baghdad at his place of work by Baath Party security. He was forced into a vehicle, had his eyes covered and was transported to a military police camp. Hours later, he arrived at the DGS prison.

"The security stopped me on the street, asked if I was Anmar ... then asked me for my ID card,"

he said, adding that the former regime's Iraqi police, military police and special security all dressed in civilian clothes. "When I asked why they wanted to see my ID card, seven men surrounded me, took my ID, and forced me into a vehicle."

Ali said, "I thought this was the end; that I was going to die."

He was suspected of doing business with Kurdistan, and in possession of a fake ID. He had deserted the Iraqi army in 1992.

When he first arrived at the prison, the interrogations began. He was questioned on his dealings with the Kurds, being hit repeatedly in the process.

"I don't want to remember some of the other things they did," Ali said, and referred to incidents of prisoners being hung from the ceiling by their feet, being hit with a reed and having salt rubbed in their wounds.

"On my first (rough interrogation), they put me in a cell by myself... took my clothes... and (guards) would pour buckets of water on me." It was February.

Incidents of torture during interrogations were the rule, not the exception.

According to 1st Lt. Gregory



File Photo

**A view from above in the DGS prison's general population block. This is where families and petty criminals were held.**

Holmes, brigade human intelligence analysis chief, 2nd BCT, a variety of barbaric methods were used to interrogate prisoners throughout Iraq.

"You name it, they did it," he said. In addition to what Ali expe-

rienced, "(the guards) practiced (strategically placed) electroshock and slicing, sensory deprivation, various methods of (suspending prisoners) with hooks and eyelets, starvation... and severe beatings."

Some of the prisoners' sensory deprivation was ongoing.

Window openings, which now offer refreshing beams of sunlight into the prison, were blackened; inmates did not know if it was night or day.

The living conditions at the prison were equally horrific.

According to Ali, his 6'x 9' cell held as many as 18 prisoners at a time.

"We had no bathroom," he said. "After they fed us... a piece of bread and maybe some soup for the day... we had to use the food tray for a toilet."

When the U.S. first made the compound into a military camp, many locals seeking work would not enter the compound, according to Hayder Abdul-Nabi.

Abdul-Nabi, a contracted interpreter, had two brothers incarcerated at the DGS prison. His older brother, whom he would not name, was a prisoner there for seven years.

"My brother was an (armor) for the (old Iraqi Army)," he said. "The (regime) found out he (sold) a pistol, and he was arrested."

Abdul-Nabi added that his family had no idea where his brother was for those seven years.

They suspected he was dead. It wasn't until the brother was transferred to Abu Ghraib, where he spent another 10 years incarcerated, that the family discovered he was still alive.

"My brother won't speak a word of what happened in (the DGS prison)," Abdul-Nabi said. "But when we sleep in the same place, I always awake to hear him talking in his sleep, having nightmares of the things they did to him."

Abdul-Nabi himself would not step foot in the prison during his visit.

For Ali, his incarceration was all for naught. Ali spent three months at the DGS prison in Baghdad before being transferred to Kirkuk for four more months. There was no evidence against him for dealings with the Kurds. Someone else who shared the same name was the suspected threat to the regime.

Ali spent three months in prison for desertion from the army before his father bought his son's freedom. Ali, now 34, and Abdul-Nabi both left the former DGS compound Mar. 11 on their own free will, alive, and no longer living in fear.



Smith ————— From Page 1A the enemy. He then took two Soldiers forward to join the guards and directed their engagement of the enemy with small arms. The enemy continued to fire rifles, RPGs, and 60mm mortars at the Soldiers on the street and within the courtyard. Enemy soldiers began moving along the buildings on the north side of the clearing to get into position to climb into the towers. Sgt. 1st Class Smith called for an APC to move forward to provide additional fire support. Sgt. 1st Class Smith then fired an AT-4 at the enemy while directing the his fire team assembled near the front line of the engagement area.

Running low on ammunition and having taken RPG hits, the Bradley withdrew to reload. The lead APC in the area received a direct hit from a mortar, wounding the three occupants. The enemy attack was at its strongest point and every action counted. Not only were the wounded Soldiers threatened but also more than 100 Soldiers from B Company, the Task Force Aid Station, and the Mortar Platoon were at risk.

Sgt. 1st Class Smith ordered one of his Soldiers to back the damaged APC back into the courtyard after the wounded men had been evacuated. Knowing the APC's .50-Cal. machinegun was the largest weapon between the enemy and the friendly position, Sgt. 1st Class Smith immediately assumed the track commander's position behind the weapon, and told a soldier who accompanied him to "feed me ammunition whenever you hear the gun get quiet." Sgt. 1st Class Smith fired on the advancing enemy from the unprotected position atop the APC and expended at least three boxes of ammunition before being mortally wounded by enemy fire. The enemy attack was defeated. Sgt. 1st Class Smith's actions saved the lives of at least 100 Soldiers, caused the failure of a deliberate enemy attack hours after 1st Brigade seized the Baghdad Airport, and resulted in an estimated 20-50 enemy soldiers killed. His actions inspired his platoon, his Company, the 11th Engineer Battalion and Task Force 2-7 Infantry.

Sgt. 1st Class Smith's actions to lead



Sgt. First Class Paul Smith will be awarded the Medal of Honor Apr. 4 at a White House ceremony.

Soldiers in direct contact with a numerically superior enemy—to personally engage the enemy with a fragmentation grenade, AT-4, and individual weapon, to ultimately assume the track commander's



Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith (left) and Spc. Fernando Guillen, a mechanic with 11th Eng. Bn., pause from wheel hub repair for a photo at Camp Pennsylvania.

position to fire the .50-Cal. machinegun through at least three boxes of ammunition before being mortally wounded—demonstrates conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty.

His actions prevented a penetration in the Task Force 2-7 sector, defended the aid station, mortars, and scouts, and allowed the evacuation of Soldiers wounded by indirect enemy fire.

Police

that I would be happy to be a part of this," said Sgt. Corey Smith, Forward Support Battery 1/76 FA. "I see it as we are trying to help these guys out. We are helping to train the good guys in this area to help clean out the bad guys and to rebuild Iraq. I see a lot of motivated wannabe-Soldiers out here today that want to help us out."

After the physical test, the potential recruits took a literacy test and then were screened by medics to make sure there were no preexisting medical conditions that would strike them from service.

"As a condition for the screening all the applicants have to have at least a high

school diploma," Meehan said. "That being said, the literacy test, along with the PT test is what gives a lot of these guys a no-go."

One potential recruit, who asked that his name not be used, said he was applying because of his family and his country. "I am not doing this for money," he said. "My family has money. I am doing this because my father and brother are both Iraqi Policemen and because I love my country."

For him the PT test was easy. "I play a lot of soccer, so the running was easy," he said. "I will use my running skills to chase down the terrorists."

From Page 1A

For this Iraqi, applying to become a police officer is not just a stop-over until he finds something else he would rather do.

"I want to do this for the rest of my life," he said. "Maybe I will become a colonel or a general."

Smith was encouraged by the caliber of the men who turned out to protect their own country.

"I really think that some of these guys are going to be good cops," he said.

"They will do a great job of taking over their country. Soon we'll get to the point where we are supporting them instead of them supporting us," he said.



# Coalition two years in Iraq

## Task Force Baghdad — commitment, work

Donna Miles  
*American Forces Press Service*

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — “Keeping the coalition here strong and working together is a lot like maintaining a marriage,” the chief of staff for Multinational Force Iraq told the American Forces Press Service.

“A good marriage isn’t easy. You have to work at it every day, and there has to be give and take on both sides,” said Marine Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Weber.

“And that is what dealing with the coalition over here is,” said Weber. “It’s been a selfless give and take on both sides, by all the countries involved.”

Working as a coalition introduces challenges to the mission, with coalition members bringing to the table different languages, cultures, skill levels, types of equipment and philosophies about the way they plan and strategize, Weber said. “It makes things very interesting and very challenging,” he said.

But despite the challenges, Weber said, Operation Iraqi Freedom is stronger for the many capabilities coalition members contribute.

Regardless of their troop strength in Iraq, Weber said all coalition members are important contributors to the operation. “I don’t care if it’s a country that has 12 soldiers over here or a country like Korea that has 3,700

soldiers over here. All the coalition partners’ contributions over here are significant,” he said.

The coalition in Iraq remains strong, Weber said, and most members have committed their forces here through the end of the year. However, he said, that does not mean that they may not phase in their troop reductions before that. “I think the coalition forces are approaching their drawdown exactly the way we probably want them to, and they have been very cooperative in working with us,” he said.

Multinational Force Iraq is developing goals and objectives for the end of 2005 and beyond, but Weber said deadlines won’t be the driving force in those plans, invoking the words of Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., Multinational Force Iraq commander, “General Casey says we are not going to tie ourselves to any specific timelines or numbers,” Weber said. “It is going to be condition-based.”



File Photo

***Maj. Gen. William Webster, commanding general, 3rd Infantry Division, leads the Task Force Baghdad coalition.***

31D

But unlike during their last deployment, when soldiers said they could pop into a local shop to buy an ice cream or CD, today they’re far more guarded. No longer is the threat they face as clearly defined as it was during their first deployment here.

“Before, everyone approaching our vehicle was coming to thank us. We didn’t have worries that they were trying to blow us up,” said Capt. Robert Meadows, 2nd Brigade’s surgeon and the only staff officer to serve with the brigade through both Iraq deployments. “And now, nine times out of 10, the people don’t have a bomb, but you don’t know that. And not knowing is really stressful on the troops.”

“It’s more dangerous now,” agreed Rolland. “It seems that since we left, the attacks have gotten more sophisticated and more deadly.”

Spc. George Woods, on his third deployment to Iraq with just four years of Army service under his belt, said he feels secure inside the 2nd Brigade’s forward operating

base. “But outside on the street, you always have to be on your toes,” he said. “You have to be ready for anything.”

But despite the threats they know exist, the soldiers say they’re convinced that the vast majority of Iraqis they encounter are glad they’re here and believe they’re helping Iraq.

That support isn’t always as evident as during the division’s first deployment here, when Rolland said “people were lining the street, cheering for us and wanting to have their pictures taken with us.”

“But the people are still nice, and happy to see us, and glad we’re here,” he said, adding that they’re tired of the deaths and destruction the insurgents have left in their wake. “The majority of the people here want their country back and they want to help us fight these guys.”

The bottom line, Rolland said, is that “the average Iraqi is really no different from us.” The Iraqis want to live in peace, provide for their families and look forward to a bet-

ter future, he said. “What they want is exactly the same thing that we all want.”

Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade said they’re playing a key role in helping fulfill that dream in Iraq. “We’re here to help the Iraqi people get back up on their feet and show them there’s light at the end of the tunnel,” said Ducote. “That’s something worth fighting for.”

Rolland admitted that while he had mixed emotions about leaving his family behind to return to Iraq so quickly, his latest deployment here is proving to “be good for me mentally.”

“When we left, we had won the war but hadn’t yet won the peace,” he said. Watching news reports of ongoing operations in Iraq left him frustrated and wanting to contribute. “It’s not really that you want to be here, it’s that you know you need to be,” he said.

Now, back in the country he and his fellow soldiers helped liberate two years ago, Rolland said, “it’s good to be back and helping the Iraqis make a difference.”

From Page 1A